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# REVIEWS

### Urban's Symbolae Antillanae

The fifth volume of Professor Urban's valuable contributions to West Indian botany, published under the above title, has recently been completed by the publication of its third fascicle, and forms a volume of 555 pages. It includes a continuation of the bibliography of West Indian botany, written by Professor Urban, a monograph of the genus *Smilax* by O. E. Schulz; one of the family Celastraceae by Professor Urban; the Sapotaceae by M. Pierre and Professor Urban; Olacaceae by Professor Urban: Erythroxylaceae by Mr. Schulz; descriptions of new Compositae, and of a large number of new genera and species by Professor Urban. The work is thoroughly indexed.

These studies are of the highest importance to American botanists, and are throwing a flood of light on the relationships of West Indian plants. A very large number of species and genera new to science have been described, and many species incorrectly understood by previous authors have been elucidated, and their descriptions perfected. Much care has been taken to consult type specimens of the older authors and the amount of close study which the investigation has called for is very great; Professor Urban has the gratitude of American botanists.

Volume 4 of the Symbolae, given wholly to the flora of Porto Rico, is as yet uncompleted, two parts having been published several years ago. It is earnestly hoped that Professor Urban will soon be able to finish this volume, inasmuch as it will form a point of departure for all subsequent work on the flora of that island. It is a list of species with descriptions only of novelties, and no keys or other methods of determination are given; but a Porto Rico flora available for use by others may readily be prepared, using Professor Urban's work as a basis.

N. L. Britton.